FOREWORD

It is a pleasure for me to present the first volume of Trivent Medieval. The Trivent Medieval imprint is dedicated to studies on the history and culture of the Middle Ages, offered to an international readership by Trivent Publishing with its head office in Budapest, Hungary. At the moment, Trivent Medieval includes six series: "History and Art," "Picturing the Middle Ages and Early Modernity," "Advances in the History of Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion," "Rewriting Equestrian History," "Culture, Heritage, Memory," and "*Sylloge* – Library of Late Antique and Byzantine Studies," (see https://trivent-publishing.eu/triventmedieval.html). The volumes will contain studies on the Western, Central and Eastern European, as well as the Byzantine Middle Ages.

This volume is published in the series "History and Art" and contains research into female sanctity in Late Antiquity, the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period, a topic which is not only important for the history of religion but certainly also for gender history. It contains papers that are dealing with holy women of Western and Russian Orthodox Christianity, their textual and visual construction, power, and martyrdom. The editor of the book and, at the same time, contributor of an article, Andrea-Bianka Znorovszky, is a specialist in the research into medieval holy women, particularly cross-dressed female saints and the visual representation of the apocryphal life of the Virgin. She has been able to assemble a volume that reaches from portraits of holy learned women in the fourth-century Roman Empire to the iconography of Saint Wilgefortis in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period, and the holy royal women in the *Stepennaia Kniga* or the "Book of Royal Degrees," a thematic history of the Rus' dynasty from St. Vladimir to Ivan IV compiled in the sixties of the sixteenth century. Thereby, the volume offers a variety of new approaches and results with regard to issues of embodiment and agency of late antique, medieval and early modern female saints in textual and visual representations as well as gendered ideals of sainthood.

Gerhard Jaritz (Central European University)